

# Voters' Guide

A12 | The Darien Times | Thursday, October 31, 2019

## League of Women Voters 2019 Voters' Guide

Compiled each year as  
a public service by the  
League of Women Voters of  
Darien and presented by The Darien  
Times.



**Vote Tuesday, Nov. 5.  
Democracy is not a  
spectator sport!**

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that encourages the informed and active participation of all citizens in the process of government. The LWV of Darien is a local group of both men and women who strive to improve the quality of democracy by increasing voters' knowledge of candidates and issues.

Visit [lww.darien.org](http://lww.darien.org) to learn more.

The Voters' Guide is designed to provide information about the candidates to the public in a non-partisan and balanced way to assist them in casting an informed vote on Election Day.

Questionnaires were submitted to candidates for local offices, asking one or more office related questions. Responses were limited to a specific word count and are printed exactly as submitted by the candidates.

For every ballot position, a voter may write in the name of someone who is not listed as a candidate on a separate line at the bottom of the ballot for "Write-In Votes." In the State of Connecticut for those votes to be counted, the individual whose name is being written in, must have registered with the Secretary of State. In the case of write-in candidates for the RTM, a write-in candidate must have previously filed a petition with the Town Clerk signed by at least 25 electors within their District.

(\*) Signifies that the candidate is an incumbent.

Note: All offices appear in the order in which they appear on the ballot.

## Candidate for Town Clerk Vote for One

**Question:** Are there opportunities to further increase the use of technology into the Town Clerk's Office to improve services? (100 Words)

**Caryn L. Diller,**

**Republican Party, 314 Hollow Tree Ridge Road**

Much of the work done in the Town Clerk's Office is state mandated and as such there are limits and costs associated with what can and cannot be done in our office. We value the privacy concerns of our residents and I think that it is appropriate for our office to continue using technology to digitize their land records, both current and historical, to make them more accessible within our office. The execution of any new technology to the department will be weighed to ensure that our residents' privacy is always protected.

## Candidate for Town Treasurer Vote for One

**Question:** With increasing economic uncertainty, are you re-evaluating the Town's investment strategy? (100 Words)

**\*Joan D. Hendrickson,**

**Republican Party, 97 Hoyt St.**

Darien's investment strategy is always being evaluated. When the budget was presented in February 2019, I conservatively estimated FY 2020 investment income at \$300,000. The reasons were: 1) continuing volatility of markets, 2) an uncertain economy, 3) probability of an inverted yield curve, (which can indicate recession) and 4) reductions in the Federal Funds rates. Now, 3 months into the FY 2020, all of these things have already happened as projected. The Treasurer's top concern is the safe investment of our tax dollars. Our investments are almost all in banks and are 100% collateralized and partially insured by FDIC.

## Candidates for First Selectman Vote for One

**Question:** How can you or your Board be more proactive in alerting or engaging the public earlier in the decision making process regarding significant Town projects before decisions are made and the only recourse for public input is a late-in-the-process public hearing? (200 Words)

**\*Jayme Stevenson,**

**Republican Party,  
65 St. Nicholas Road**

The Board of Selectmen continuously looks for ways to make town government more accessible to our residents and taxpayers. Our representative form of government makes public involvement central to good governance. Your elected officials who serve on boards, commissions, committees and the Representative Town Meeting (RTM) are your channels into local decision-making. Elected RTM District and Committee representa-

tives can be very helpful in achieving our public communication goals. We employ a wide range of strategies to share information and seek public input including encouraging public participation at town meetings; email and media distributions; use of web and social media tools and most notably, the use of our public access television channel, TV79. TV79 is the envy of our peer towns for their extensive coverage of town meetings. My administration has made significant investments in TV79 so that the public has full access to the workings of local government. Public engagement is a two-way relationship which re-

quires the public to take an active interest in what's happening in town. We can and will continue to seek ways to improve public outreach through technology. Improved communication tools should be organized under a shared-services model so that Town and Board of Education work receive equitable transparency.

**Christian Noe,**

**Petitioning Candidate,  
242 Old Kings Highway South**

No Response

## Candidates for Board of Selectmen Vote for Any Two

**Question:** How can you or your Board be more proactive in alerting or engaging the public earlier in the decision making process regarding significant Town projects before decisions are made and the only recourse for public input is a late-in-the-process public hearing? (200 Words)

**Sarah Neumann,**

**Democratic Party,  
94 Gardiner St.**

We are lucky in this town to have intelligent and engaged residents. We saw the survey that Parks and Rec did a few years ago as a resounding success. It showed Darien that our residents want to be involved in our town project planning. When a large project such as Pear Tree presents itself, we could be involving the town at an earlier date and engaging residents to gain trust and goodwill. The Board of Selectmen could be reaching out to residents at an earlier point in the process, with surveys, town-wide emails and letters, as well as information sessions to allow residents to transparently see the different options for the project. We also need to have a vehicle for feedback for our residents, seeing it as a valuable part of the process with large projects such as this. Our RTM should be used to disseminate the information, and to solicit feedback from districts. Allowing the information to flow during all parts of the process will allow for a successful project to be completed.

**David Martin,**

**Democratic Party, 15 Libby Lane**

When a significant project is considered in town the BOS can be more proactive in notifying town residents of the project. As representatives of the people we have an obligation to make the project reflect the needs and preferences of our citizens. The Park and Recreation Master Plan survey showed that in our highly educated town an on line survey soliciting input as to the major elements of the plan and any other needs perceived by the public will likely achieve a high

response rate. When the survey is ready we can:

1. Advertise the survey and need for public responses in the Darien Times, Patch, Face Book, Town web site and other locations as appropriate
2. Have the Town Clerk email notification of the survey and how to access it to all RTM members and ask that they notify all their friends and constituents

3. Do a regular mailing to all residents in the district where the project will be located advising them of the survey and asking them to complete it

When the results from the survey are in, they can be used to guide the Town in developing the project to reflect the desires of our citizens.

**Christa Sheehan McNamara,**

**Republican Party,  
69 St. Nicholas Road**

If the assumption is that people are not being afforded the opportunity to give input into significant Town projects early enough in the process to have a meaningful impact, we would certainly be supportive of any ideas which improve public participation and engagement.

The Board of Selectmen (BOS), in a unanimous vote in September, 2019, adopted in its Goals and Objectives to "engage and inform our community and all stakeholders through transparent and effective communication." The town website is already an effective source of information, as all meetings, agendas and minutes are posted. All meetings are open to the public and held in the evening, so hopefully conducive for residents to attend. Channel 79, also supported by the town budget, videotapes all BOS meetings which are archived again on the town website.

Going forward, we should support the collaboration between town bodies to also help disseminate information on significant projects as they affect local residents. Members of the Representative Town Meeting (RTM) could be partners in this effort by targeting information to specific districts they represent throughout the community. We should support cost effective technological solutions that increase transparency and communication between all the town bodies and their constituents.

**\*Charles "Kip" Koons,**

**Republican Party,  
75 Maywood Road**

All major projects have a number of hurdles that must be cleared before final approvals are in place. These include, among others, the sponsoring Commission, the Board of Selectmen, The Board of Finance and the RTM. The public is allowed to voice their opinions at each of these hurdles.

The Town Boards and Commissions always practice transparency at their meetings by inviting open public comment. Additionally, the Town employs technology to make this transparency practice user friendly through the use of the Town website which posts meeting agendas and minutes of Boards and Commissions, by routine interaction with local media and most significantly through Channel 79's robust offerings on video and vimeo. The BOS has boosted Channel 79's budget over the years so that its coverage is far ahead of similar efforts in other area towns.

Going forward we will also work with RTM District Leaders to alert and engage citizens when a significant project is proposed for their area. Engaged and informed citizens make Darien a better town.

## SAMPLE BALLOT

**State of Connecticut  
Official Ballot**



Darien, Connecticut

Municipal Election

November 5, 2019

Voting District 1

Sheet 1 of 1

OFFICE PARTY ↓	1 FIRST SELECTMAN VOTE FOR ONE	2 SELECTMAN VOTE FOR ANY TWO	3 TOWN CLERK VOTE FOR ONE	4 TOWN TREASURER VOTE FOR ONE	5 TAX COLLECTOR VOTE FOR ONE	6 BOARD OF FINANCE VOTE FOR ANY TWO	7 BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTE FOR ANY TWO	8 BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS VOTE FOR ONE	9 BOARD OF PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION VOTE FOR ONE	10 CONSTABLES VOTE FOR ONE	11 BOARD OF APPEALS VOTE FOR ONE	12 PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION VOTE FOR ANY TWO	13 CONSTABLES VOTE FOR ANY TWO	14 BOARD OF APPEALS VOTE FOR ONE	15 CONSTABLES VOTE FOR ANY TWO
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	1A <input type="radio"/> SARAH NEUMANN <input type="radio"/> CHRISTA SHEEHAN MCNAMARA	2A <input type="radio"/> JAYME STEVENSON <input type="radio"/> CHRISTA SHEEHAN MCNAMARA	3A <input type="radio"/> DAVID MARTIN <input type="radio"/> CHARLES "KIP" KOONS	4A <input type="radio"/> CARYN L. DILLER <input type="radio"/> JOAN D. HENDRICKSON	5A <input type="radio"/> KATHLEEN M. LARKINS <input type="radio"/> JAMES R. PALEN, JR.	6A <input type="radio"/> DANIEL J. BUMGARDNER <input type="radio"/> TAYLOR W. CARTER	7A <input type="radio"/> TARA B. OCHMAN <input type="radio"/> JOHN R. SINI, JR.	8A <input type="radio"/> 9A <input type="radio"/> 10B <input type="radio"/> 11B <input type="radio"/> 12B <input type="radio"/> 13B <input type="radio"/> 14B <input type="radio"/> 15B	9A <input type="radio"/> GEORGE A. REILLY <input type="radio"/> CARA GATELY <input type="radio"/> LAWRENCE T. WARBLE, JR. <input type="radio"/> ALAN HYATT <input type="radio"/> LOUIS CALASTRO	10A <input type="radio"/> 11A <input type="radio"/> 12A <input type="radio"/> 13A <input type="radio"/> 14A <input type="radio"/> 15A	11A <input type="radio"/> 12A <input type="radio"/> 13A <input type="radio"/> 14A <input type="radio"/> 15A	12A <input type="radio"/> 13A <input type="radio"/> 14A <input type="radio"/> 15A	13A <input type="radio"/> 14A <input type="radio"/> 15A	14A <input type="radio"/> 15A	15A <input type="radio"/> 15B
REPUBLICAN PARTY	1B <input type="radio"/> JAYME STEVENSON <input type="radio"/> CHRISTA SHEEHAN MCNAMARA	2B <input type="radio"/> CHRISTA SHEEHAN MCNAMARA	3B <input type="radio"/> DAVID MARTIN <input type="radio"/> CHARLES "KIP" KOONS	4B <input type="radio"/> CARYN L. DILLER <input type="radio"/> JOAN D. HENDRICKSON	5B <input type="radio"/> KATHLEEN M. LARKINS <input type="radio"/> JAMES R. PALEN, JR.	6B <input type="radio"/> DANIEL J. BUMGARDNER <input type="radio"/> TAYLOR W. CARTER	7B <input type="radio"/> TARA B. OCHMAN <input type="radio"/> JOHN R. SINI, JR.	8B <input type="radio"/> 9B <input type="radio"/> 10B <input type="radio"/> 11B <input type="radio"/> 12B <input type="radio"/> 13B <input type="radio"/> 14B <input type="radio"/> 15B	9B <input type="radio"/> 10B <input type="radio"/> 11B <input type="radio"/> 12B <input type="radio"/> 13B <input type="radio"/> 14B <input type="radio"/> 15B	10B <input type="radio"/> 11B <input type="radio"/> 12B <input type="radio"/> 13B <input type="radio"/> 14B <input type="radio"/> 15B	11B <input type="radio"/> 12B <input type="radio"/> 13B <input type="radio"/> 14B <input type="radio"/> 15B	12B <input type="radio"/> 13B <input type="radio"/> 14B <input type="radio"/> 15B	13B <input type="radio"/> 14B <input type="radio"/> 15B	14B <input type="radio"/> 15B	15B <input type="radio"/> 15C
PETITIONING CANDIDATE	1C <input type="radio"/> CHRISTIAN NOE	2C <input type="radio"/> CHRISTIAN NOE	3C <input type="radio"/> CHRISTIAN NOE	4C <input type="radio"/> CHRISTIAN NOE	5C <input type="radio"/> CHRISTIAN NOE	6C <input type="radio"/> CHRISTIAN NOE	7C <input type="radio"/> CHRISTIAN NOE	8C <input type="radio"/> CHRISTIAN NOE	9C <input type="radio"/> CHRISTIAN NOE	10C <input type="radio"/> CHRISTIAN NOE	11C <input type="radio"/> CHRISTIAN NOE	12C <input type="radio"/> CHRISTIAN NOE	13C <input type="radio"/> CHRISTIAN NOE	14C <input type="radio"/> CHRISTIAN NOE	15C <input type="radio"/> CHRISTIAN NOE
	1D <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES	2D <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES	3D <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES	4D <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES	5D <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES	6D <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES	7D <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES	8D <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES	9D <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES	10D <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES	11D <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES	12D <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES	13D <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES	14D <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES	15D <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES
	1E <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES	2E <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES	3E <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES	4E <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES	5E <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES	6E <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES	7E <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES	8E <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES	9E <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES	10E <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES	11E <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES	12E <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES	13E <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES	14E <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES	15E <input type="radio"/> WRITE-IN VOTES

# Voters' Guide

A13 | The Darien Times | Thursday, October 31, 2019

## Candidates for Board of Finance *Vote for Any Two*

Question: What role should your Board have in guiding the Town's overall spending profile? (200 Words)

### Daniel J. Bumgardner,

**Democratic Party, 64 Hanson Road**

Acting directly as elected officials of the town, Darien's Board of Finance is the principal architect of the town's budget and overall financial policy. This critical function requires the board to actively communicate and interact with other boards and town officials in order to make sure its recommendations are well informed and well founded. The overall fiscal condition of our state and resulting economic pressures locally, particularly on real estate values, has created a budget situation requiring a delicate balance between enhancing our town's services, schools and infrastructure while minimizing any increase to our mill rate. This requires the board to develop a thorough understanding of the budgets set forth by each of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education, in order to make sure this balance is being achieved. Further, through developing a thorough understanding of the spending needs of our town and school system, we can potentially influence key spending and capital objectives. Ultimately, members of the Board of Finance represent the town's collective interests in the critically important work of how our tax dollars are spent.

### \*James R. Palen, Jr.,

**Republican Party, 5 Hickory Lane**

The Board of Finance is responsible for approving the town and school operating and capital budgets and sourcing funding for these budgets from a combination of property taxes, bonding and cash balances. As a representative of the Darien taxpayer, the Board of Finance must fund the educational and public services that our residents value, while also insuring that growth in the mill rate is reflective of the long-term growth trend in property values and development. The services that our town and schools deliver relative to the taxes we levy must be regionally competitive in order to attract new residents and thereby support property valuations. The Board of Finance should encourage and work together with town and school leaders to regularly look for ways to deliver services efficiently and economically, while working together to uncover and realize synergies that reduce spending, and thus taxation. Finally, the BOF should provide school and town leaders with budget guidelines that protect Darien's financial health and competitive profile relative to surrounding communities.

### Taylor W. Carter,

**Republican Party, 385 Middlesex Road**

As elected individuals responsible for approving Darien's budget and setting its mill rate, I believe it is the duty of the Board of Finance to perpetually seek balance between adequately funding town programs and burdening taxpayers.

While statute may dictate portions of our budget, other areas are discretionary and open to questions of necessity and efficiency. Ongoing and thorough analysis of spending practices is necessary to ensure this balance is achieved, and a close eye must be kept on factors outside our control (e.g.: state mandates). Such vigilance is essential to maintaining the overall "affordability" of life in Darien.

Darien is a wonderful place to live; it's a town with a beautiful landscape, close-knit community and an efficient government—and I look forward to contributing to the work required to preserve and enhance these assets in the most fiscally responsible way possible.

## Candidates for Board of Education *Vote for Any Two*

Question: How can the Board best plan to fund quality education and increased responsibility for the needs of its students, considering increased pressure to use more local property taxes to make up for the State's fiscal shortfall? (200 Words)

### \*Tara B. Ochman,

**Democratic Party,  
476 Mansfield Ave.**

The Board of Education has been addressing this issue for the past several years. We have created a budget responsive to student needs and respectful of taxpayers. At this point, we are already almost entirely locally funded. We continue to work with the administration to track and receive all applicable State grants. We have been conservative and mindful of budgeting around such grants. In the coming year, our strategic plan will certainly help fine tune and inform this process, and; will continue to demonstrate our community's pride in our children and in our schools.

### John R. Sini, Jr.,

**Republican Party, 36 Birch Road**

Remain steadfast, among other town leaders and community members, in reject-

ing unilateral efforts by state Democratic legislators to regionalize successful, locally controlled school districts.

Create a long-term strategic plan that outlines the district's educational goals and capital investments for its facilities. Prioritize any new educational programs within the scope of current curricula and implement specific performance metrics for new and existing programs in order to ensure goals are met. Include priorities for ongoing capital maintenance and new projects for school facilities. Incorporate this data in a town-wide public facility plan administered by an integrated planning committee of town officials.

Because of the turnover of multiple superintendents, implement a district-wide analysis of administrative roles to ensure accountability and eliminate any duplication of job responsibilities. Utilize this analysis to identify possible consolidation opportunities. Redeploy any excess administrative resources to our classrooms for the direct benefit of our students.

Consider student activity fees and taste-

ful local business sponsorships as an incremental funding source for extracurricular student activities.

Initiate discussions with fellow town officials and staff to explore potential areas of collaboration and synergies. Earn the trust and respect of the community through comprehensive communication, transparency, internal accountability and oversight, and teamwork.

### \*D. Jill McCammon,

**Republican Party,  
81 Old Kings Highway South**

We need to get the most out of every dollar we spend by looking internally at our governance, including more sophisticated and strategic planning, sound decision making, and meaningful metrics for assessing program performance.

We need to take proactive advantage of the way the global educational landscape is changing, including opportunities for enhanced learning and/or educational

productivity.

We need to look at specific, voluntary opportunities for shared services and best practices - focusing on communication and collaboration with our fellow town government bodies as well as organizations like the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education.

We need to be better prepared to advocate, ensuring that we have robust conversations around the board table reflected in formal and informal communications from the board as bills circulate in Hartford.

We need to be comfortable listening to challenges or questions from our fellow town bodies and parent organizations, viewing them as opportunities to better explain our work, to collaborate or to improve, not as overreaching interference or partisan tactics.

Lastly, and most importantly, we need to be clear that we put children first, but children are best served when the proverbial house is in order.

## Candidate for Tax Collector *Vote for One*

Question: What are your priorities for your upcoming term? (75 Words)

### \*Kathleen M. Larkins,

**Republican Party, 57 Echo Drive North**

The top priority for the tax office for the upcoming term is maintaining high collection rates on the current year tax levy, delinquent taxes from prior list years as well as sewer service and sewer assessment billings. As for new initiatives, the top priority is expanding payment options for sewer service billings to include credit/debit cards and ACH in a manner which minimizes convenience fees charged taxpayers as well as fee exposure to the town.

## Candidates for Constable *Vote for Any Two*

### Alan Hyatt,

**Republican Party, 114 West Ave.**

No Response

### \*Louis Calastro,

**Republican Party, 15 Hollow Tree Ridge Road**

No Response

## Candidate for Board of Assessment Appeals *Vote for One*

### \*Richard Dolcetti,

**Republican Party, 20 Wildcat Road**

No Response

## Candidates for Planning and Zoning Commission *Vote for Any Two*

Question: What are your primary considerations when reviewing a project? (200 Words)

### \*George A. Reilly,

**Democratic Party,  
5 Musket Lane**

My primary considerations when reviewing a project are: compliance with requirements of each zone; whether the project will make a positive impact on sustainability of resources; whether appropriate consideration has been given to open space, emergency access and sidewalks; whether parking alternatives are adequate for commercial projects; whether the project is pedestrian-friendly; whether the number of occupants will make an impact on town services, safety and other local businesses; neighborhood and town-wide concerns; the transparency of the application process and deliberations.

The Planning and Zoning Commission must weigh a property owner's and tenant's conformity with the rules against any opposing interests. As a P&Z commissioner, I hope to insure intelligent growth in town having in mind the significant growth that has been approved in the Corbin District and Noroton Heights. Darien should remain a residential community with a mix of housing stock, manageable traffic and great resources ranging from first-class schools with outstanding facilities to beaches and parks, arts and fitness facilities, and restaurants and shopping while commercial buildings provide for tenants' productivity and oppor-

tunity to contribute to the community.

### \*Cara Gately,

**Republican Party,  
596 Hollow Tree Ridge Road**

Darien is a charming, coastal town with a vibrant downtown and community spirit. Blue Wave Pride is strong in the Gately household - we love calling Darien home. Darien is special place and a desirable hometown that people strive and work hard to live in. Like all Darien residents, my husband and I work hard and sacrifice to raise our family here and like most Fairfield County families, our home is our most valuable and important asset.

Keeping Darien a desired hometown thus preserving home values, planning for the continued economic development, protecting its coastal and natural resources and enhancing town facilities is key if we want Darien and all of its constituents to prosper.

In reviewing a project, I will consider whether it complies with applicable federal, state and local zoning regulations and what is the potential impact on neighbors, the surrounding area, and on local the environment. I will consider whether the project been well planned; have the applicants performed the necessary traffic, flood, environmental or other applicable studies; is the proposed usage appropriate for the zone; does the project have adequate

emergency vehicle access and parking; and does the project promote economic development, walkability, housing diversity, sustainability and resiliency.

### Lawrence T. Warble, Jr.,

**Republican Party,  
52 Birch Road**

First of all, thank you to the League of Women voters for creating this voters guide and to those residents who are taking the time to focus on this election, and the current state of Darien.

The role of Planning and Zoning is to interpret the regulations, rather than weigh in the merits of a project. I take a commonsense fact-based approach to evaluating whether a project fits into the current regulations.

I will consider the needs of the property owner balanced against the impact to the community. In general, I believe in private property rights, but all projects need to remain within some common-sense boundaries. I do not believe in adding additional barriers to a project based on any personal agendas, or current trends. Also, it is important to recognize that our community is diverse, and many of our town projects need to address the needs of all our citizens.

Transparency, the needs of the community, and the rights of the property owner will be my general guidelines.

# Voters' Guide

A14 | The Darien Times | Thursday, October 31, 2019

## Representative Town Meeting

The Representative Town Meeting is determined annually by elector apportionment and cannot exceed 100 members. Legislative powers for the town are vested in this body. Members serve two-year terms, do not get compensated and are not

elected based on party affiliation. Its responsibilities include passing laws and ordinances, appropriating money and approving collective bargaining contracts involving town employees.

Ballots will vary depending on the vot-

ing district. There may be write-in candidates in some of the districts, but you must ask at your polling location. Write-in candidates must receive a minimum of 25 votes to serve on the RTM.

Attendance records for incumbents have

been provided by the Town Clerk's office for your information. Incumbents are noted with \*\*

Please note the polling location of your District.

RTM Questions: Q1) What Town issue or concern is most important to you? Q2) Would utilizing a Town issued email address assist you in communicating with or being more accessible to your constituents? (100 words in total)

### District 1

Poll Location: 35 Leroy Avenue

Vote for any eleven

#### Luisa A. Brakman,

##### 17 Sylvan Road

Q1) We are a community that offers excellent schools and many opportunities; that cares about its citizens and has a beautiful natural environment. We need to work to empower our residents, listening to and learning from to address issues. I am concerned about the state interfering in our affairs (our schools); about struggling residents and our elderly that cannot afford Darien and development that impacts the natural beauty of our town.

Q2) I support it but not crucial. Having a philosophy of "know your neighbor" matters, staying connected, listening and sharing, then acting with their interests on the top of your mind.

#### \*\*Patricia F. Bumgardner,

##### 64 Hanson Road

Q1) Transparency. Whether I am reviewing the town and the BoE budgets, asking questions about the Noroton Heights retail and housing development or attending meetings regarding Darien's town parks and beaches, due diligence and transparency are key factors in informing my decision-making process as a trusted RTM representative.

Q2) I support having a town issued email. I have received hundreds of emails from neighbors in District 1 and constituents throughout Darien and answered them all. It is very effective way to get feedback from citizens across town on a variety of issues that affect Darien.

#### \*\*Curtis A. Butler,

##### 106 Stephen Mather Road

Q1) The town issue closest to my heart is the continued support of our schools and an annual education budget that reflects the ever-changing needs of our students and the growing competitive pressures they face. Providing a nurturing environment and the resources necessary to succeed in college and in the world is paramount to the success of this town.

Q2) A town-issued email address makes good sense, as a dedicated inbox for town business would both support privacy and reduce the likelihood that messages from constituents and town officials get lost in the mix of the hundreds of other emails each of receives every week.

#### \*\*Patrick M. Keane,

##### 10 Pembroke Road

No Response

#### \*\*Colin J. Kelly,

##### 16 Sherry Lane

No Response

#### \*\*Derek Lublin,

##### 24 Maplewood Drive

Q1) High quality education with high quality facilities.

Q2) Yes

#### \*\*Karen McNicoll,

##### 43 Salisbury Road

Q1) As an educator and as a member of the education committee of the RTM, I have always agreed that a strong education program is vital for the town of Darien; fortunately such a program exists. It is important to maintain a fiscally sound education budget while ensuring the continued high educational standards and broad program offerings. This can be supported through informed, productive and cordial relations between the RTM and the Board of Education.

Q2) Yes, I do think a town issued email address would help communication between the RTM members and their constituents.

#### \*\*Bradley Pattelli,

##### 276 Mansfield Avenue

No Response

#### \*\*Lois J. Schneider,

##### 31 Maywood Road

Q1) The most important concern to me is that issues and projects that are being worked on have the input from many sources and that the decisions be based on overall good for the town and the majority of the residents. Finding balance among options and concerns is important. This is the responsibility of the elected officials.

Q2) A Town issued email address is a good idea as long as we can forward any emails to a designated email address. To have to go in and check another email address frequently is difficult.

#### Jennifer A. Schwartz,

##### 8 Saddle Ridge Road

Q1) My goal is to promote good governance through transparent and fair public processes. To do that I would strive to be a bridge between District 1 residents and town leaders through open communication and feedback channels. I am committed to performing thorough due diligence on public purpose projects that require financial, social and environmental analysis, such that when it comes time to vote, my vote accurately reflect the residents in District 1. Thank you.

Q2) Yes.

#### \*\*Bert H. von Staelnagel,

##### 61 St. Nicholas Road

Q1) Connecticut municipalities are under an increasing threat by the State government through a proposed scheme that Hartford calls "regionalization", but which is in fact an effort in central government. This includes fiscal risks. Serving on the RTM Finance and Budget Committee I make it my primary concern for the Darien budget to remain effective and efficient despite the ambitions of the State, always remembering that I work for the Darien taxpayers.

### District 2

#### Poll Location: Town Hall

Vote for any eight

#### \*\*William Cusack,

##### 219 Old Kings Highway South

Q1) The effective use and protection of our resources. Using our budget for necessary projects that will benefit the town for years to come. Preserving our waterways and green space and protecting them from over-development. Improving our infrastructure to meet real time needs through sustainable development.

Q2) Probably. It would be easier for constituents to get in touch with RTM members.

#### Marie A. Handler,

##### 9 Sunswyck Road,

Q1) There are a great number of issues that I am concerned with, but overall I want to make sure that we are a financially conservative in our expenditures, especially in light of the current finances in the overall State of Connecticut. I do however hope to advocate for pedestrian safety, especially concerning easy accessibility to train stations and road crossings, safety near schools and also ways to allow more residents to be active around town.

Q2) I don't feel it is necessary.

#### \*\*Susanne R. Handler,

##### 11 Homewood Lane

Q1) As a RTM representative, I would like to be able to convey the feelings and beliefs of my constituents. Personally, I have a strong interest in the environment. I feel it is important for all citizens of Darien to be offered the ability to enjoy the outdoors by providing an affordable, safe and healthy environment to do so.

#### \*\*Monica M. McNally,

##### 7 Arrowhead Way

Q1) We must use Darien's resources carefully. Being a good steward of our taxpayer dollars is critical to the financial stability of our town, but I refer to our "people" resources. Our town's services are guided and strongly supported by hun-

dreds of volunteers and unpaid elected officials. By listening with respect to all sides on issues being discussed, we encourage others to come forward and provide their own ideas, time, and expertise, creating a better Darien for all of us.

Q2) I support a town issued email address and believe it would encourage communication with my constituents.

#### \*\*Iris B. Mix,

##### 4 Wild Rose Lane

Q1) All RTM Members should be fiscally responsible with the town's revenues and we should be environmentally proactive on all projects. We should be responsive and open to listening to the voices of our constituents. These mandates should be applied to the building of the new Ox Ridge Elementary School and to the renovation and preservation of Pear Tree Point Beach.

Q2) I believe a town issued email to be useful. It would also be useful to create a town supported (protected) database of voter emails (voluntarily provided) to communicate issues, surveys, and other information back to our constituents.

#### \*\*Stacey Tié,

##### 10 Clock's Lane

Q1) My primary interest is in preserving the town's strong school system and excellent town services within a fiscally responsible framework.

Q2) I believe that the RTM should represent constituents. Communication is key. I believe email and social media are wonderful tools for communication. RTM members have a responsibility to canvas our fellow citizens to discuss issues facing the town and work with other town boards to make decisions that represent the best interests of the town. I would also like to see the RTM districts continue to hold Town Hall Forums to connect with constituents.

### District 3

#### Poll Location: Noroton Heights Fire Department

Vote for any ten

Based on the Ballot this is a contested race

#### Francisco Cardona,

##### 37 Camp Avenue

No Response

#### \*\*Adele M. Conniff,

##### 8 Wheat Lane

Q1) Having served on the RTM Parks & Recreation Committee for the last 12 years, my focus remains on our parks. The Short Lane property at Weed Beach should be incorporated into Weed Beach along with a park walking trail this year, thanks to the generous gifts of the Darien Athletic Foundation and Darien Foundation. I look forward to an updated Pear Tree Point Beach that we can all enjoy. Our beaches are among our town's greatest assets.

Q2) Using my town e-mail address is very useful. Contact me: aconniff@darienct.gov I hope to continue serving District 3.

#### \*\*Holly M. Giordano,

##### 17 Leeuwarden Lane

Q1) One of the issues that is important to me is how Darien stays relevant to the business growth as many of the surrounding bordering towns have.

Accommodating new ideas and the future developments such as those that are slated for our town are very important for our tax dollars to stay in Darien. Understanding the importance that downtown experience, walkability, and lifestyle can not only draw in revenue but overall adds to the important value our town has in the region. I plan on being the voice of those ideas if they make fiscal sense for our town.

#### Eric D. Golus,

##### 4 Chester Road

Q1) The upcoming Town of Darien's 200th Anniversary is an invitation for members of our community to come to

gether and learn the rich history of our home. It will allow Darienites many opportunities to learn why Darien is an outstanding place to live, work, play and raise a family. The anniversary committee has done an excellent job of promoting this. I suggest that more resources be put into this effort to make it as impactful and meaningful as possible. I believe "it takes a village".

Q2) Absolutely! It would be easier to respond to my constituents' questions and concerns. (edited for word count)

#### \*\*Catherine Kazim-Bailey,

##### 5 Spring Grove Street

Q1) Increased environmentalism is an important issue in the town of Darien. Darien should actively participate in environmental measures such as discouraging the use of single-use plastics and encouraging increased walk-ability with sidewalks. The creation of bike lanes and cycling paths is also important.

Q2) Additionally, a town issued email address would help enable greater accessibility with constituents and should be established. Thank you for your time.

#### Elizabeth B. Lane,

##### 16 Hillcrest Ave.

Q1) I've spent several years working with the education budget on the Council of Darien School Parents, and I would like to use the knowledge I've gained there to help ensure Darien schools' continued excellence within budgetary constraints.

Q2) Yes; a Town email address would allow members to easily view constituent emails separately from the volume of personal mail.

#### \*\*M. Carolina McGahey,

##### 28 Kensett Lane

Q1) Keeping our taxes as stable as possible. Making sure we are utilizing our resources as efficiently and effectively as we can. Thinking outside the box when evaluating ideas and proposals. Making sure that Darien is a town that will continue to appeal to current and new residents and that reflects our values as residents of it. Overseeing the Ox Ridge project is executed with a clear vision and anticipating future needs as it is a big investment the town is making. Bringing new businesses to town.

Q2) Yes, I believe this would be very helpful.

#### \*\*Sue-Ellen H. Mitchell,

##### 50 Kensett Lane

Q1) With the fiscal challenges the state of Connecticut is currently facing, an important issue for the town of Darien is maintaining our top rated schools as well as providing a variety of services town wide that make this community a safe and vibrant place to live.

#### \*\*Thomas W. Moore,

##### 26 Georgian Lane

Q1) I have been on the RTM since 1995, and joined as a way to contribute to the community. As a representative of the RTM, I hope to guide the town and make decisions that benefit the district and address the concerns of the people I represent. A way to encourage more participation in the governing process would be to publish the upcoming RTM agendas in the local newspapers along with a brief explanation of each agenda item. Also, the Town could send emails to residents informing them of upcoming RTM agendas and include a brief summary of each item.

#### \*\*Seth W. Morton,

##### 20 Denhurst Place

Q1) There are three major construction projects pending in the town. Two are in Noroton Heights and one is in the center of Darien. How these projects are executed will fundamentally impact the living environment in the town. All citizens should follow the approval process for these projects so that the outcomes reflect the best interests of the town.

Q2) Town issued email addresses are available to elected officials now. The email

See RTM on A15

# Voters' Guide

A15 | The Darien Times | Thursday, October 31, 2019

## RTM

From page A14

system is difficult to use, particularly when trying to contact constituent groups.

### \*\*Jennifer Woodbury,

#### 31 Briar Brae Road

Q1) Between the proposed Pear Tree Point project, Highland Park, and other developments, I think the question of what kind of town we want to be and look like in the future is one of the most important issues facing Darien.

Q2) Although I do not believe a town issued email address would necessarily help facilitate my ability to communicate with constituents, I do think it would help make RTM members more accessible to constituents, and for that reason I think it could be something to consider.

## District 4

### Poll Location: Hindley School

*Vote for any seven*

**Based on the Ballot this is a contested race**

### \*\*Martha Banks,

#### 17 Harbor Road

Q1) Spending capital project dollars wisely. I support construction of a new Ox Ridge School and reasonable improvements at Pear Tree Beach—updating the bathrooms and picnic area and increasing the size of the “side” beach. I don’t support construction of an elevated building containing heated rental event space. It’s not needed, will increase the capital cost of the project and result in increased operating expenses. Ongoing maintenance of facilities is critical.

Q2) Yes. Every RTM member should automatically be issued a town email address. My email is mbanks@darienct.gov and I encourage constituents to contact me.

### \*\*A. James Cameron,

#### 55 Dubois Street

Q1) I am passionate about open communications between the Town, its elected/appointed officials and all residents of Darien. That’s why I helped start and still run Darien TV79.

Q2) I have asked for over ten years that every elected/appointed official in Town be required to post an e-mail address and telephone number on the Town website. I cannot understand why that still has not happened.

Whether it’s a Town issued e-mail address or a private one, everyone should be accessible to constituents. The RTM should set the example and be the first to comply.

### Christine A. Castles,

#### 15 Dubois Street

Q1) My main concern is the health and safety for all Darien residents, giving special attention to vulnerable populations, including children, seniors, and people with disabilities. Currently I serve on the Darien Advisory Board of Health and the Commission of Aging, and would like to use this experience by working on the RTM. I support cost-effective initiatives that address both the physical and mental components of health, inclusive of our schools and larger community.

Q2) To this end, open and transparent two-way communications with constituents are essential, and would be well-served with a town issued email

### Werner Domittner,

#### 25 Nearwater Lane

Q1) I believe an important town issue is managing our budget more efficiently to keep property taxes low. We have seen tax increases over the past years whilst house prices are eroding and need to start better distinguishing between needs and wants. Within Fairfield County only Darien offers the combination of a top school system, a short commute to NYC, location at the Long Island Sound with beach access and one of the lowest mill rates. We need to balance our expenditures to maintain our high standards with the goal to keep tax increases low and property values high.

Q2) Yes.

### \*\*Frank B. Kemp,

#### 20 Seagate Road

Q1) Ensuring that the RTM projects the community's voice during the current commercial and residential developments. While specific planning and commitments have already been made by the BOS, P&Z, and others – the RTM can now help to express the sense of the community. I have chaired the committee that coordinated key updates to the Town Charter – including sections for the Town Administrator, the Department of Human Services, the Town

Council, the blight ordinance and regulations relating to plastic and paper bags.

Q2) I currently use a Town email address, fkemp@darienct.gov and find it accessible and useful.

### \*\*Joseph D. Miceli,

#### 22 Nickerson Lane

Q1) I feel that the most important issue facing Darien is the very poor economic health of the state of Connecticut. Darien residents will pay more in state taxes and receive less state aid from the state. To compensate for the loss in aid Darien will have to raise its town taxes. Soon following these tax increases property values will become weak. Darien can not avoid this scenario. Tough choices will make Darien a less desirable place to live.

Q2) Yes I feel an RTM email address would help communications between RTM members and their constituents.

### \*\*Andrew C. Millar,

#### 18 LaForge Road

Q1) Over 730 individuals have signed a petition opposing the town's plan to redevelop Pear Tree Beach which would demolish the current buildings, construct a two-story structure containing a second floor rental/community space, remove the changing rooms, plant vegetation between the parking space and the beach, and reduce the number of parking spaces. Another 350 or so have signed other online petitions.

In respect for community preferences, I support renovating the existing buildings and barbecue area, retaining the current number of parking spaces, and replacing the missing trees along the waterfront.

### Margaret A. Rague,

#### 63 Dubois Street

Q1) I think the Town should assist its citizens in obtaining access to cleaner energy. Another highly important matter is to maintain and further the Town's commitment to giving an outstanding education to its youth.

Q2) I support each RTM member being given an email address by the Town solely devoted to receiving communications from the people that member is representing involving Town matters.

### \*\*Sandra A. Savage,

#### 22 Pleasant Street

Q1) The most important issue for me right now is the renovation of Pear Tree Beach. I am not in favor of the current proposal. I have lived in Darien for 30 years and have raised my 4 kids here. We trailer a boat all summer, so are at the beach almost every weekend. The simple natural beauty of the surroundings is everything. The constant flooding is a true fact that can not be ignored. Keep the beach the way it is, fix the boat ramp, which has never been right from the last improvement.

## District 5

### Poll Location: Town Hall

*Vote for any ten*

### \*\*Carolyn Golden Bayne,

#### 5 Windsor Road

Q1) With many of the federal government's environmental mandates put on hold or reversed, state and local governments must do more to combat climate change. Prompt and effective action is required, with much that can be done at the local level. Whether constructing new schools, replacing municipal vehicles or purchasing supplies, all local policies and actions should be viewed through the lens of climate change and conserving natural resources. The success of any climate action plan will be increased through coordination of and communication between residents, public officials and local organizations; means to improve this should be explored and implemented.

### \*\*Terrence J. Duffy, Jr.,

#### One Lantern Lane

No Response

### \*\*Kenneth A. Fiveson, Jr.,

#### 27 Edgerton Street

Q1) High-quality education is of upmost importance in Darien and I think we should remain focused on maintaining our standard of excellence. This includes continuing to upgrade and modernize our educational facilities. We should also closely monitor the imminent redevelopments of Noroton Heights and The Corbin district to make sure they don't have an unforeseen impact on school population and class size over the next few years.

Q2) Yes I would like a town issued email address to communicate with constituents.

### \*\*Jennifer M. Moller,

#### 5 Edgerton Court

Q1) The issues I am most concerned with are the use of publicly-owned land, specifically related to parks and rec, proper development of the town to make Darien an ideal community to live and raise a family, continued investment in our education system to benefit all children, regardless of school, grade or ability.

Q2) No, I do not support RTM members being issued a town email address.

### \*\*Sara D. Parent,

#### 227 Hollow Tree Ridge Road

Q1) The most important issue to me is the education of Darien's children. The district is led by a dedicated Board of Education and a strong Superintendent. We are fortunate to have many excellent teachers. However, some of our school facilities have exceeded their usefulness and are too small for their population. Portable classrooms are unsafe. With plans for a new Ox Ridge School in place, it is time to address the physical needs of the other schools.

Q2) All RTM members should communicate with their constituents using a darienct.gov email address. This will allow for flow and ease of communication.

### \*\*James M. Patrick,

#### 22 Edgerton St.

Q1) Traffic congestion is of great concern to residents of Darien. Constituents in District 5 will be experiencing this issue with the construction projects slated to begin soon in Noroton Heights. Middle and High School traffic is also of concern to town residents. These are important issues to me.

Q2) Each member of the RTM has provided the Town Clerk with an email address to be used for official business. Mine is jmprtm@gmail.com. These should be listed on the town website to facilitate communication. They must be made available.

### \*\*Ann B. Reed,

#### 15 Libby Lane

Q1) As a multi-year member of the RTM Education Committee as well as a previous budget head of the CDSP, the BoE school budget remains the most important issue to me. Keeping the academics and athletics at top caliber while providing a challenging and safe environment for students at all levels of achievement requires much thought and planning.

Q2) I feel that the email addresses of RTM are quite accessible through the town website and my constituents and others certainly do manage to find me. I am, however, certainly open to having a town email address. (edited for word count)

### \*\*H. William Smith III,

#### 2 Tyler Drive

Q1) RTM members need to act as good stewards of the Town's resources. With substantial capital projects soon to come before the RTM for consideration, including a new Ox Ridge school and redevelopment at Pear Tree Point beach, it is essential that the RTM be prepared and willing to exercise its oversight function to ensure that the Town's tax dollars are used wisely. This means delivering services and facilities residents want and need both effectively and efficiently.

Q2) A Town e-mail address would facilitate communication between residents of District 5 and their representatives on the RTM.

## District 6

### Poll Location: 35 Leroy Avenue

*Vote for any eleven*

### \*\*Barry R. Baldwin,

#### 10 Rock Spring Lane

Q1) Darien continues to function as a desirable place to raise a family. Our major issue should be maintaining the quality of our public schools. In addition, we need to stay focused on safety and the appearance of the town. I'm sure many of us are aware of and concerned about the softening of real estate values. It is important that the RTM remain focused on spending the town's taxes in the most effective ways while avoiding unnecessary expenses in order to keep annual tax increases as low as possible.

Q2) I think a town issued email address for RTM members, would be a good idea.

### \*\*Amy R. Chickles,

#### 24 Cliff Ave.

Q1) Keeping Darien's town services and amenities strong and available to all members of the community is important, as well as diversifying our housing options to enable varied demographics to remain or move in to town.

Q2) Yes.

### Virginia S. Jijon-Caamano,

#### 5 Stony Brook Road South

Q1) I am an activist, volunteer, and attorney, and I've been a resident of Darien for 10 years. I have kids in our schools, I walk my dogs in our parks, and I shop and eat locally. Safety and security, quality of life, a high level of education, and most importantly, growth and prosperity are key issues for Darien to continue to have a bright future.

Q2) Yes, I believe RTM emails would be of benefit to constituents

### \*\*Elizabeth Lucas,

#### 208 Old Kings Highway North

Q1) I am currently a member of the RTM Education Committee and, as such, those issues impacting the Darien Public Schools are most important to me.

Q2) I would be happy to utilize a town email address if constituents find that method of communication preferable and/or more efficient.

### \*\*Martha Caroline Luz,

#### 23 Fairview Ave.

Q1) There is no single issue that I am concerned about or consider a priority. New issues arise all the time and I am interested in learning about how each of them affects our town and voting on all of them.

Q2) A government-issued email is just another address I won't check! I much prefer to be contacted directly at my own email address.

### \*\*Emily Q. McDermott,

#### 73 Locust Hill Road

Q1) Most important issues in Darien are a moving target and always changing. Each RTM member is placed on a committee where issues in that area are researched, discussed, voted on and then shared with the full RTM. My current placement is on the Parks and Recreation Committee. This year, recent 'important issues' have included the Highland Park property (former Ox Ridge Hunt Club land) and the proposed Pear Tree Point Beach improvements. The later is my current focus area and my 'most important issue' until it is resolved.

Q2) As for a town issued email address, I welcome any and all communication channels with constituents.

### \*\*Peter P. Orphanos,

#### 67 Raymond St.

Q1) The most important issue is continuing to provide the highest quality possible education in the Darien Public Schools. I have lived in Darien for 22 years with my wife, Karen and our daughter, who went through K-12 here. Our schools are THE foundation upon which our community rests. Supporting and strengthening this foundation requires continued diligence that incorporates every classroom.

Q2) As for a town-based RTM email address, I would support it to facilitate enhanced community communication.

### \*\*Shannon Silsby,

#### 42 Mansfield Ave.

Q1) Mindful problem solving, planning and investment that considers all learners, opinions of all neighbors and the importance of all our physical as well as natural assets in town. Collaborative leadership that tackles today's challenges and plans for tomorrow's with transparency.

Q2) yes

### \*\*William R. Van Loan Jr.,

#### 60 Raymond St.

No Response

### \*\*Theresa Vogt,

#### 22 Circle Road

Q1) While I wholly support the revitalization of the downtown and Heights areas, I worry that too much redevelopment at once may inconvenience not only residents near those areas, but also the local businesses we need to support. The Pear Tree Point project is also a concern for me. Are we listening to our constituents with regard to this project and is this a wise use of tax dollars as we begin construction on a much needed elementary school?

Q2) Yes. An automatically issued Town email address will enable constituents to more easily reach out to their RTM representatives.